

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2009. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended; and claims 3 and 9 are cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 are currently pending in the present application. Note that no new matter has been entered by the claim amendments.

On page 4 of the Office Action, it is noted with appreciation that claims 5 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3 and allowable claim 9. Also, allowable claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Thus, independent claims 1 and 5 are now clearly in condition for allowance.

Further, claims 4 and 7 depend from allowable claims 1 and 5, respectively, and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to enter the above amendment and pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobuo OYAMA

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